

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action claims 19, 20, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs in that the specification indicates that tantalum is only used as a seed layer component in a “two part” seed layer configuration. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended independent claims 19 and 27 to delete tantalum as a seed layer material.

Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims overcome this ground of rejection.

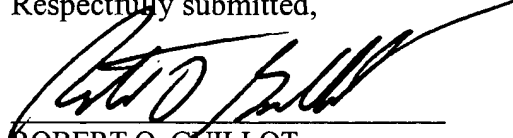
In paragraph 2 of the Office Action it is indicated that dependent claims 21, 22, 29 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claims from which they depend. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended dependent claims 21 and 29 to an independent claim format, wherein tantalum is retained as a seed layer material for a two part seed layer. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action further prior art is made of record. Applicant has reviewed the prior art and believes that the claims, as amended, are patentable thereover.

Having responded to all of the paragraphs of the Office Action, and having amended the claims accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be forthcoming

at the Examiner's earliest opportunity. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments with regard to this amendment, a telephonic conference at the number set forth below is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on November 18, 2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: November 18, 2004


Patricia Beilmann